Equal Rights

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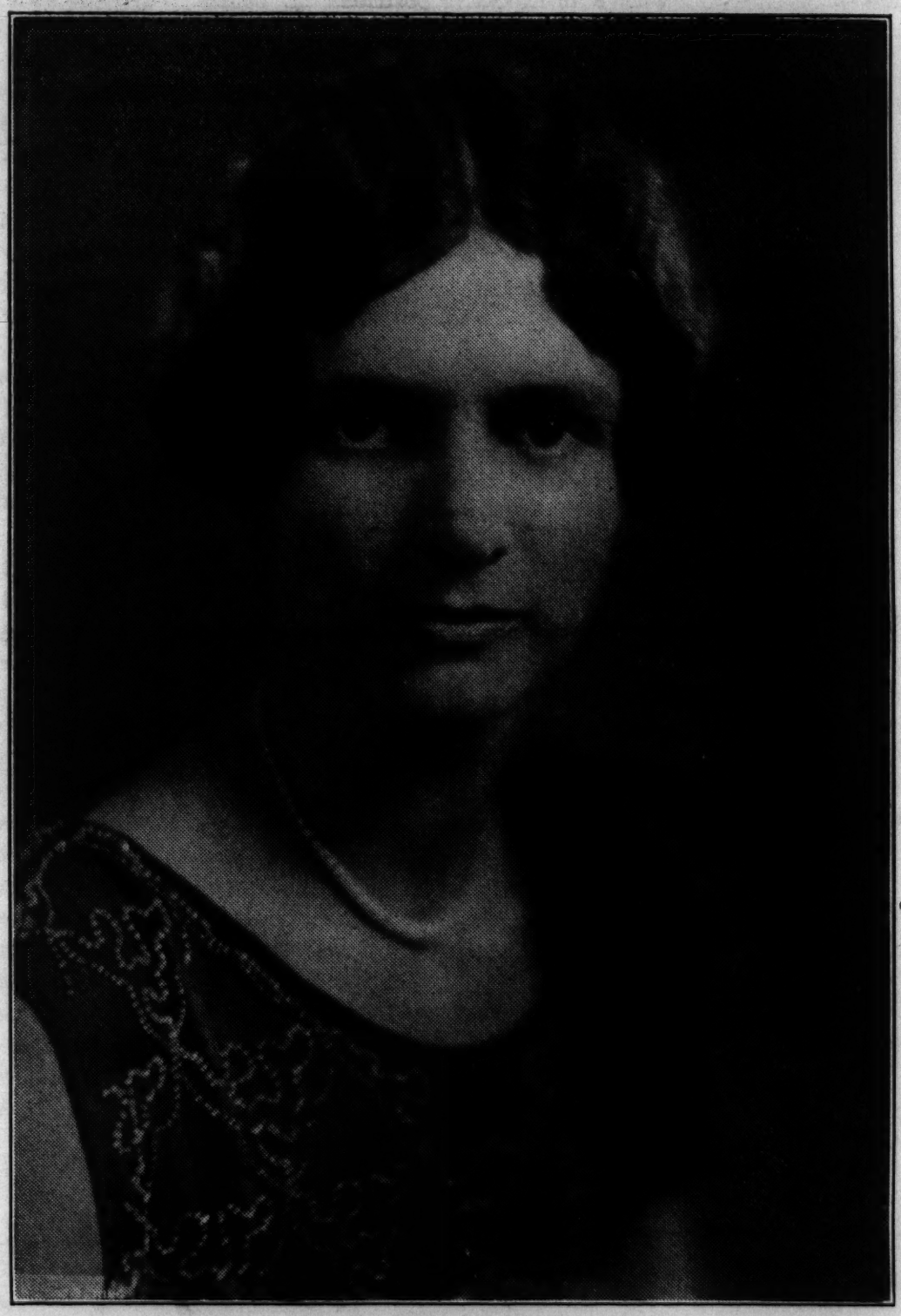

Times Wide World.

FRANCES WILLIS

Who has recently been appointed United States Vice-Consul in Chile. This is the highest diplomatic post ever filled by a woman in the service of the United States.

CONGRESS LIBRARY PERU

Feminist Notes

Medical Women's Training

THE Senate of the University of London has set up a committee of twelve to inquire into the banning of women students at hospital medical schools. There are only two women on the committee, Ethel Strudwick, principal of St. Paul's Girls' School, and Margaret Tuke, principal of the Bedford College for Women.

India Seeks Equal Rights

REPRESENTATIVES of various Indian parties, after a month's conference in Delhi, have issued a declaration of rights calling for suffrage for men and women, and Equal Rights between men and women.

Woman Wins in Primary

RUTH HANNA McCORMICK has been nominated by Illinois Republicans for one of the two seats as congressman-at-large which Illinois has in the National House of Representatives. Mrs. McCormick is an experienced politician, the daughter of Mark Hanna and the widow of the late Senator Medill McCormick, but she ran her campaign solely on her own qualifications. She was an ardent suffrage worker, but not with the National Woman's Party. During her campaign she spoke in each of the 101 down-State counties, making hundreds of speeches, and traveled some 16,000 miles by automobile. Mrs. McCormick defeated Representative Richard Yates, who is now serving his fifth term in Congress.

Woman Ship Broker in England

ALTHOUGH not yet old enough to vote, Mabel Weller, 23, has passed examinations which make her the first woman qualified as a shipbroker in England.

A shipbroker's duties require the negotiating of cargoes for steamships throughout the world, the bearing of responsibility for discharging of cargoes, the entering into arrangements with captains and crews of all nationalities, and the employment of technical knowledge of all classes of ships and markets in the world.

For Suffrage Deputies and Senators

FRENCH suffragists are campaigning for the election to Parliament of representatives favorable to woman suffrage. A questionnaire is sent to each candidate asking him if he will pledge himself (1) to include woman suffrage in his program, and (2) if he will make every effort to secure it within one year.

Woman Plumber

TULSA, OKLAHOMA, is claiming the only woman plumber in the United States in the person of a 17-year-old girl, Evelyn Middleton. At least, the 1920 census reveals no woman plumber.

Afraid to Face Sex Prejudice

FIRM in the belief that there are too many business men prejudiced against women in executive positions, M. Louise Luckinbill, secretary of the Schultz-McGregor Corporation of New York City, has declined promotion to the first vice-presidency of the advertising agency, according to the New York *Times*.

In a note to Frank McGregor, president of the corporation, explaining why she would rather not be promoted, Miss Luckinbill wrote:

"Too many mossbacks, whose opinions of women's ability in business belong to the stone age, head our business organizations.

"I am convinced that there are still many business men so prejudiced against women that they would throw up their hands in horror at the idea of a woman being first vice-president of an agency which served them."

Miss Luckinbill amplified the note in an interview in which she said her belief that business men in higher positions are prejudiced against women executives was the result of six years' observations in the advertising field. She said she could give instance after instance where advertising contracts she should have obtained were given to men only because men executives felt a woman could not have sufficient business background to carry out the work.

"Of course I should like to have accepted the promotion," Miss Luckinbill said, "but I did not want to accept it, knowing that it would be better for the firm to have a man occupy this position. I hated to pass the opportunity, but felt after careful study this was the only solution. In justice to the firm I had to decline."

President McGregor said he was sorry Miss Luckinbill did not see her way clear to accept the promotion. He declared it was with regret that her decision was accepted.

"However, I am glad I can say Miss Luckinbill will continue as secretary. In this position she has charge of nine accounts in the cosmetic and women's field," Mr. McGregor added. "Although she declined the promotion, she will not suffer by it financially."

Afghan Queen Gives First Interview

QUEEN THOURAGAH of Afghanistan has given her first interview to the press, and she gave it to a young Russian woman who was trained in journalism in the United States, and who, in addition to being the wife of the youngest member of the Belgian Chamber of Deputies and the mother of a young child, is the Brussels correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune*. The interviewer's name is Anne Stoffregen Somerhausen, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, and a member of Theta Sigma Phi, the American honorary and professional fraternity for women in journalism.

"Please tell the American women," the Afghan Queen said to Mrs. Somerhausen, "that I am the first woman in Afghanistan to work for the emancipation of women in my country and for women's education. I collaborate, though from afar, in the great work for women's progress in the world. I know that American women have greatly distinguished themselves in this field and that is why I have such a profound admiration for them."

The Queen explained that she had founded the first girls' school in Afghanistan and told of the fierce resistance the idea met from old-fashioned Mohammedans. A revolt broke out, she said, but it was firmly suppressed by the King. A memorial stone at Kabul, she reminded, commemorates a battle fought for women's educational freedom.

"At present," she continued, "eight hundred girls are enrolled in this school, and are reared like European girls. My mother directs the school and I help her as far as I can."

From her mother, who was a Syrian Queen, the Queen learned the four principal languages of the Near East and obtained an education far superior to that of other Afghan women.

Woman Candidate for Senate

VIRGINIA PETERS PARKHURST of Berwyn, Prince George's County, has filed with the Secretary of State her notice as candidate for the Democratic nomination to the United States Senate from Maryland. Accompanying the notice filed was the required fee of $270 to have her name placed on the ballots.

Her entry into the race will make her an opponent in the State primary of Senator William Cabell Bruce, who already had filed for renomination, and who defeated Mrs. Parkhurst in the primary six years ago.

Aphra Behn

A Review of V. Sackville West's "Aphra Behn," Published by Viking Press. ($2.00.)

By Ruby A. Black

THIS woman who, they say, was the first in England to earn her living by her pen, apparently did not live up to her talent as a portrayer of the people of that gaudy and vivid century in which she lived.

"It is as though," explains her biographer and interpreter, "she had used up all her store of initiative and daring in persisting that she, a woman, might claim Equal Rights with the man, and had no reserve left for any further effort."

It is by no means an apologetic or fantastic explanation of the fact that her writings have not lived, except in a few vivid or beautiful phrases, despite their large number and the furore they caused in Seventeenth Century England. Her nineteen plays, thirteen novels, and scores of poems, songs, translations, published letters, and other miscellaneous works, were produced to bring her a living. They were written rapidly and with the royalties always in view. The age had its set forms for plays and poems. It was all Aphra Behn could do to convince the age that a woman could write in the way men wrote. She had no time or energy to convince her age that there was another way to write. Yet there appear in her plays particularly gleams of an insight into character and an ability to depict it in other than the accepted forms.

Aphra Behn knew that she had to fight for her rights as a woman. Other women had written, but in the shelter of their homes, without having to take thought for the income their productions might bring.

They say, too, that Aphra Behn's name was "synonymous with all that was bawdy in life and literature." As for her life, she had lovers, and she gave them more than she received from them. If that is bawdy, make the most of it. As for her work—again let V. Sackville West speak:

> "Her defiance of the conventions consisted mainly in trying to compete with—I will not say outdo, for I think the indecency of Mrs. Behn's plays has been exaggerated into a sort of bugaboo — the men at their own game. The result is that her plays, although skilful and lively, present no real interest; they neither enrich our store of literary acquaintances with any three-dimensional characters, nor reflect any facet of Mrs. Behn's personal sensibility."

Yet she opened the way for other women writers, and today in fiction and on the stage there are women who are second to no man writing.

The century of Samuel Pepys, of the Great Fire in London, of Charles II and Nell Gwynn, was not a century that desired subtlety or delicacy on its stage. Mrs. Behn was writing for that century. Even if she outdid the men—as her biographer assures us she did not—think of the newspaper women who, in a competitive field, have had to outdo their men contemporaries in sensationalism, and of the male sob-sisters who have had to outdo their female contemporaries in spreading tears over the pages of the newspapers.

Aphra Behn knew what she had to face. She complains of it occasionally, and militantly protests against the discrimination against her on account of her sex. For example:

> "This one thing I will venture to say, though against my nature, because it has a vanity in it: that had the plays I have writ come forth under any man's name, and never known to have been mine, I appeal to all unbiased judges of sense, if they had not said that person had made as many good comedies, as any one man that has writ in our age; but a devil on't the woman damns the poet."

And again:

> "All I ask, is the privilege for my masculine part. * * * If I must not, because of my sex, have this freedom, I lay down my quill and you shall hear no more of me, no, not so much as to make comparisons, because I will be kinder to my brothers of the pen than they have been to a defenceless woman."

That was after she had heard a friend denounce her play at Will's Coffee House, although he had praised it to her following a previous reading. But she did not lay down her quill. She produced another farce promptly.

Once she heard a "long, lither, phlegmatic, white, ill-favored, wretched fop" in the pit when her "The Dutch Lover" was being produced, say loudly during the performance "that they were to expect a woeful play, God damn him (Mrs. Behn interjects), for it was a woman's."

This attitude on the part of the public preyed upon her mind, and at the end of "Sir Patient Fancy" she has Mrs. Gwynn come out and speak an epilogue in which she said:

"There and there o'erheard a coxcomb cry,
'Ah, rot it! 'tis a woman's comedy,
One, who because she lately chanced to please us,
With her damned stuff will never cease to tease us.'
"What has poor woman done, that she must be
Debarred from sense and sacred poetry?
* * *
* * * * * "pray tell me then
Why women should not write as well as men?"

MRS. BEHN'S early life is obscured in conflicting records and reports. They say she lived for a while in South America, but they do not know when, or how long, or exactly under what circumstances. She lived from 1640 to 1689, it is fairly certain. It is also certain that she served as a spy for her country in Holland, and was not paid for her services what she had been promised. And likewise that she was thrown into a debtor's prison because her government did not pay her so that she could pay the expenses she had incurred. That was shortly after she had been a brilliant member of the Court of Charles II.

The city prisons had been destroyed in the fire which had ravaged London just before her return from Antwerp. Thus Mrs. Behn was in a debtors' jail when it was at its worst, and they were never nice. They were more squalid, more overcrowded, more unsanitary, than ever when it was her misfortune to be incarcerated. So, the age which belittled her writing because of her sex did nothing to protect her because of it.

She was not yet 30 years old when she was freed from her prison. Already she had gone with a father (or a foster-father, as some insist) to the remote colony in South America; already she had been married and widowed; already she had known prosperity and favor; already she had known the direst poverty. This had taught her to "take what she wanted," her biographer says. It was then that she entered upon her real writing career. After that, she never depended upon favor or patronage, never risked her well-being upon the whim of another person, and never quite risked her happiness upon another, despite the love affairs that were by no means always happy.

THIS short book about Aphra Behn is the first of a series of biographies of "representative women" being written by a group of younger English writers, and published in this country by Viking Press, New York. "Annie Besant," by Geoffrey West, has already been published, and will be reviewed in EQUAL RIGHTS soon. Others who will be included are Lady Hester Stanhope, Mary Shelley, Rachel, Christina of Sweden, Jane Welsh Carlyle, Charlotte Corday, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Each woman has been chosen as a mirror of her time, the publishers explain.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 64.]

Introduced in the Senate, January 4, 1923,
by Senator Charles E. Curtis.

Experience Is the Best Teacher

THE international character of the protest against industrial legislation based on sex is well indicated by recent events abroad. In last week's issue of Equal Rights we reported the campaigns being waged by Swiss teachers and Belgian waitresses against being legislated out of their jobs. Swiss women teachers do not wish arbitrarily to be relegated to the four walls of the home upon marriage, neither do Belgian waitresses desire to be "protected" to the extent of being deprived of their means to a livelihood.

Now word comes that in Germany the National Council of Women has protested against the protective bill which would limit women's right to work in agriculture, office work, at night, on Sundays and holidays, as factory inspectors, *et cetera*.

In Holland also warnings have been uttered against the special protective law for women in agriculture, proposed by the Government, as the danger is foreseen that it will protect women out of their work, as has already occurred in other branches of labor.

In England increasingly large numbers of women, engaged in various kinds of occupations, are protesting against their being classified with children in the industrial world. The recent case of the women electrical engineers, and that of the women painters in England, show plainly that resentment against the arbitrary restrictions implied in protective legislation based on sex is becoming more vocative. Heretofore women have permitted themselves to be legislated for quite as if they had no concern in the matter. Doubtless that is because previously they had had so little experience in competitive industry. Now out of a very gruelling experience many women have learned that "protection" is a very gross misnomer when it entails the losing of a much prized job, or a deterioration in the market value of one's labor. It is on the sure ground of this hard, actual experience that women, in quite unrelated parts of the world, are taking a stand against sex-limited, protective legislation.

Even before we had in hand the facts that are now available with regard to this type of legislation, we were a bit suspicious as to its genuine results for women. It was so frightfully chivalrous on the part of men to be giving us something that they did not even ask for themselves that our mental eyebrows went up a little; for, after all, the chivalry of the sex that wrote the old British Common Law in behalf of women is not, it must be confessed, on practical grounds so very convincing.

They Win

WE believe that our readers will enjoy a closer acquaintance with the new woman member of the British Parliament, Mrs. Walter Runciman, who was returned in the recent by-election at St. Ives, Cornwall. Mrs. Runciman is the eighth woman member of the present Parliament and will be the only Liberal, for of the seven women who already have seats, four are Conservatives and three represent Labor.

The Liberal Party naturally is rejoicing over the victory, the more so because the victor happens to be the wife of one of the leading members of the party, Mr. Walter Runciman, who is Liberal member for Swansea West. As a result of Mrs. Runciman's election, for the first time in history husband and wife will sit together in the House of Commons.

A daughter of a former member for South Shields, Mrs. Runciman entered on her career in a tradition of public service, and took a first class in the History Tripos at Cambridge when university education for women was still in its infancy. She was the first woman member of the Newcastle-on-Tyne School Board, and became a member of the Northumberland County Education Committee. She was on the first list of women magistrates. She is president of the Free Church Women's Council. Moreover, she is a past president of the Women's National Liberal Federation, and a member of the executive committee of the Liberal Million Fund.

Feminists in America acclaim the election of the new woman M.P. as an outstanding victory for women the world over. At the same time this event throws into bold relief the true backwardness of women in the political life of our own country. Why is it that women have so many more members in the British Parliament than they have in the Congress of the United States of America? The contrast is painful and humiliating and should serve as a stimulus to American women to enter the political arena.

The House of Mother and Child

By Mary Winsor

THE new Russia is built up on that firmest of all foundations — the child. They understand as no other nation does that the child is the future, and it is the future for which they are building.

The Russian Government is not only paternal, it is maternal, which is still better.

The birth of a child does not come as a surprise; the community plans for it with loving and intelligent care. I visited in Moscow the House of Mother and Child. Directly across the picturesque narrow winding street stands a Greek Catholic Church, delightful to contemplate with its humpy domes and vivid coloring. The old and the new seem almost to touch, existing harmoniously, side by side. Contrary to popular impression in America, religious services go on freely. Indeed, I was almost deafened on Saturday evening and Sunday morning with the chiming of bells and the hallooing and shouting of anthems.

In the House of Mother and Child, the glad tidings of "Unto us a child is born" are welcome the year around. The Soviet prepares for the new-comer by guaranteeing to all factory workers two months of complete rest, with full pay, both before and after childbirth. In the case of teachers and clerical workers whose tasks do not involve hard physical labor, the period is shortened to three months. So no fears of destitution need trouble the mother while taking her rest.

This special institution, of which there are two more in Moscow and 103 in the country at large, is for debilitated and delicate women. There are two women physicians in charge, obstetrical and gynecological, who examine the prospective mothers when they first enter, no patient being kept there who has veneral or any other contagious disease. Nor does the actual birth take place there, but in a lying-in-hospital, where they spend about a week, returning to the House again. There is no idleness about the House, the mothers sew on baby clothes, keep their own rooms in order and serve their meals. During the day, unless they are too ill, they take care of the baby under the supervision of a nurse, but at night it is put in charge of another nurse. No heavy work is given them, as they generally arrive from the factory exhausted. I asked the kind and capable woman doctor who showed us over, how the women were gathered, and was told that Moscow is divided into districts, "rayons," and that the district physicians inspect the women in the factories, from which 86 per cent. of the women in this House are drawn, and recommend them after social workers have reported on their home conditions. This House contains 26 women and their babies with room for a dozen additional babies. It is very beautiful and dignified, having been the residence of wealthy and prominent people before the war, and its handsome carved woodwork and plaster ceilings made a striking contrast to the wan and phebeian features of the pathetic little mothers with their frail babies for whom the workers' government had provided this safe nest.

Boston Celebrates Pan-American Achievements

BOSTON heard the story of the Feminist work at the Pan-American Conference, lead by Jane Norman Smith, chairman of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, and Doris Stevens, chairman of the Party's Committee on International Work, at a dinner at the Bellevue Hotel on April 16.

Mrs. H. L. Movius, chairman of the Massachusetts Branch of the National Woman's Party, presided at the dinner and introduced the speakers.

Doris Stevens, in whose honor the dinner was held, explained the purpose and scope of the Equal Rights Treaty and told why it was proposed at Havana.

"Although eminent jurists advocate and propose what they call 'progressive codification,'" Miss Stevens said, "it is not found to be so for women. The most distinguished jurists agree that codification should be a rehabilitation of law, and even a creation of new laws when public opinion demands it. We find, for example, men too eager to codify the law unequally on the point of a married woman's nationality. We find no clear statement of a proposal such as this: 'Marriage of persons shall not affect their nationality unless they so desire.' I am not setting this up as a model law, merely as the model of the idea which we would like to see prevail. And yet you would be astonished to see the elaborate pages written on this subject to avoid so simple and just a declaration.

"You will find men equally exercised —whether they sit in Japan, Venice or Rio de Janeiro—on the subject of illegitimacy. The burden of illegitimacy has always been carried too heavily by women alone. Rather than declare simply that illegitimacy shall go, again pages are written to attempt to determine how to treat the nationality of the child who should never be so stigmatized."

Miss Stevens, referring to the proposed convention of the International Labor Office of the League of Nations, said: "The question of minimum wage laws is upon the agenda of the International Labor conference of the League of Nations which convenes in Geneva on May 30 of this year. The International Labor Office hopes to have adopted at this meeting an international convention to provide for a system of minimum wage boards all over the world. If such a treaty goes through, it will probably mean the setting up of a world wide system of one wage scale for men and another wage scale for women. This will be done unless we are strong enough to prevent it. Do we in this day and age believe that there shall be written into permanent international law such gross injustice to women? And yet this will be done unless we are powerful and articulate enough to prevent it. With a treaty such as we propose, this could never happen.

"The first requisite is to agree on the broad general principle of equality between men and women. Secretary Kellogg said recently of his proposed world peace treaty, 'If your heart is in agreement, your intellect will settle the technical difficulties.'

"At the dinner of the American Branch of the International Law Association, held in New York last Saturday night, and which I attended, Professor Borchard of Yale said of the Kellogg proposal: 'It is true the Kellogg treaty is a radical proposal. If Europe objects to it, at least the United States will have the credit of having made this radical proposal.' You see men are proud of their radical proposals. So are we."

Dr. Manley O. Hudson, professor of international law at Harvard University, and authority on the League of Nations, spoke on the increasing number and variety of subjects now being handled through treaties. He will soon publish an article listing the subjects which have been or are being dealt with by international action.

Dr. Hudson used the campaign for the extermination of "phossy jaw" as an example of the need for international action on many problems. This disease was very prevalent in countries where matches were manufactured, and nothing was being done to prevent it in the nations concerned, because of the complications

brought about by competition between the industries of the various countries. Finally, in 1906, a treaty on the subject was made, and now the disease is practically non-existant, he said.

Dr. Hudson emphasized the important point that on most of the questions being handled by international agreement, national action goes on concurrently with international action, just as it does in the case of Equal Rights between men and women.

Dr. Hudson also spoke of the number of women in the Assembly of the League of Nations, and the work they are doing there.

Willis J. Abbot, a contributing editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*, spoke, and expressed the hope that women would take an increasingly important and powerful part in political life, both in public office and in the councils of the political parties.

Mabel Vernon, executive secretary of the Woman's Party, spoke on the practical work to be done toward achieving the adoption of the Equal Rights treaty by the twenty-one republics of the western hemisphere, proposed by Mrs. Smith and Miss Vernon at the Pan-American Conference in Havana.

She also urged that the increase in international work be a stimulus to additional work for the immediate adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, reminding the audience of the statement of Dr. Hudson that national work must run concurrently with international work, instead of superseding it.

Josephine Casey of the Mexican Federation of Labor, and a member of the Woman's Party, spoke on the work for industrial equality and paid a tribute to Miss Stevens' persistence and determination, forecasting that, as chairman of the Pan-American Women's Committee, she would accomplish her aim and that of the Woman's Party and the Feminists of the Americas.

Among those who had tables at the dinner in Boston were Jessica Henderson, Lillah B. Gray, Genevieve Fuller, Lois Rantoul, Alma Lutz, and Edith Swift, all officers of the Massachusetts Branch of the National Woman's Party, and the Business and Professional Woman's Club of Boston and the students of the Portia Law School.

Among the guests were Helena Shipman, president of the Boston Women's Press Club; Henry Claus, editor of the Boston *Transcript;* Ella Falls Schofield, assistant attorney-general and president of the Boston Zonta Club; Alice Stone Blackwell; A. Marguerite Smith of Berlin, New York; Sally Hovey, formerly of the New Hampshire State Branch of the National Woman's Party; Sara M. Algeo, chairman of the Rhode Island State Branch of the Woman's Party, and Mr. and Mrs. Irving Tomlinson.

Opposition to Protective Legislation Increases

AT a meeting of the New York Industrial Council of the National Woman's Party, held on Monday evening, April 9, at 222 Madison Avenue, New York, for members and their friends, reports were made by Frances G. Roberts, a restaurant worker, and Maud D. Williams, a printer, on labor bills affecting women that were before the New York Legislature.

The Industrial Council had sponsored the Boyle Bill, Assembly Pr. No. 825, Int. No. 802, to exempt females employed in or in connection with any restaurant from the law prohibiting employment more than six days or 54 hours in any week, or more than nine hours a day, or between 10 P. M. and 6 A. M.; also, the Jenks bill, Assembly Pr. No. 524, Int. No. 516, providing that hereafter the restrictions upon hours, night work and all other conditions of labor shall be the same for females as are provided by law for males, and repealing all labor laws applying to females and not to males. The Council supported the Truman Bill, Senate Pr. No. 1268, Int. No. 1112, to exempt licensed women pharmacists from the provisions of the night-work law.

Mrs. Roberts told of a hearing before the State Industrial Survey Commission, where wage-earning women of the National Woman's Party appeared to make further protest against the 48-hour law for women. She said that many middle-aged women from up-State testified that before the passage of the law they had worked five days a week and had had Saturday free for housework or any diversion. Now they must work Saturday mornings, owing to the hours restriction of the 48-hour law, and part of their housework must be done evenings. To this they objected. "Statements were made," said Mrs. Roberts, "that there is great confusion in many up-State factories because of the new law (48-hour). Women must leave a half hour before the men in some factories, it was said, and one employer stated that the law had upset his entire establishment, even to the bookkeeping department."

Mrs. Roberts stated that the Boyle bill was reported out of committee in the Assembly and afterward was re-committed.

GROUP after group of restaurant workers, led by Mrs. Roberts, went to Albany to lobby for this bill. She humorously referred to Emanuel Koveleski, vice-president of the State Federation of Labor, who, many years ago, was largely responsible for the passage of the law prohibiting women restaurant workers from working after 10 P. M. "At that time," said Mrs. Roberts, "women restaurant workers had not been aroused to the menace of special labor laws for women. At the hearing on the bill, a legislator inquired, 'Where are the waitresses who are for this bill?' Mr. Koveleski stepped forward and said, 'I represent the lady waitresses of Rochester.' Since then we have called him the 'Lady Waitress.'"

"Last month when we were talking to the legislators in the Assembly, urging them to vote for the Boyle bill to exempt us from the provisions of the night-work law, the 'Lady Waitress, appeared, true to form, in opposition to the bill, and made an effort to prevent us from lobbying within the Assembly rail. Tickets giving us permission so to lobby were soon sent us, however. Then the 'Lady Waitress' announced that Local No. 347, Waitresses' Union of Buffalo, opposed the bill, and it was rumored that its members would appear before the Legislature in opposition to it."

AN investigation of Local No. 347, Waitresses Union of Buffalo, by the Industrial Council of the National Woman's Party shows that there are about 3,000 waitresses in Buffalo, in restaurants, cafeterias and department stores, and that Local No. 347 possesses from 19 to 25 members, none of them, it is said, being active waitresses. They are all "extras." It was reported that this local, through its officers, sent out and signed 150 letters to Albany legislators in opposition to the Boyle bill, these letters having been furnished them for signature by a women's civic and welfare organization on record in favor of special restrictive laws for women! "If all other reputed opposition of wage-earning women to industrial equality, including the 'lady waitresses of Rochester,' were sifted down, we would probably find the same situation," said Mrs. Roberts.

Mrs. Williams reviewed special restrictive laws for women and their effects and pointed out that women printers in shops where some of the large magazines are printed and overtime required, are affected by the so-called 48-hour law. Women printers in these shops may sometimes sit around all day with little or nothing to do. Then copy may come in and considerable overtime work may be required. The woman cannot stay without evading the law.

A number of interesting reports were

made on the effect of the law during the short time it has been in operation.

One member stated that a letter had been sent out by a mercantile establishment to a number of department stores in New York State, to ask whether the 48-hour law for women would affect them or affect their policy of hiring women as executives.

Twenty-five replies had been received. Eighteen of the twenty-five thought it would probably affect their policy of hiring women as executives, giving various reasons therefor. Among the reasons given were: Some seasons require more than 48 hours; women occupying positions in the accounting department of mercantile establishment must at the end of the month stay late; that all responsible positions require considerable overtime. Buyers before special events, chief telephone operators, supervisors of the mail order departments, supervisors of the receiving departments, supervisors of the service departments might be affected by the law, they said.

Seven establishments said it would not affect their policies of hiring women executives, and one approved of the law and thought it would attract a higher type of woman.

ANOTHER report was made to the effect that 40 women, who were managers of up-State chain grocery stores, have lost their positions since the passage of the law and been replaced by men. The Industrial Council is investigating this report.

An article in a Binghamton, N. Y., newspaper was read, wherein J. W. McGerrity of the Vail-Ballou Company of Binghamton was quoted as having said at a meeting at the Arlington Hotel, Binghamton, on March 6, 1928, that that concern had been obliged to put men in some of the places formerly occupied by women as a result of the 48-hour law for women, and is hiring men rather than women as vacancies occur. The same paper quoted Edgar J. Hotchkiss of Renna Z. Spaulding Bakery Company, Binghamton, as saying at the same meeting: "I believe the law in operation affects the baking industry more than any other industry. Our plant runs 24 hours a day. In the baking field thousands of women have been turned out of work and have been replaced by men. It is unfortunate from our standpoint, but I do not believe women ought to work after 10 o'clock at night."

Mrs. Roberts again called attention to the fact that being allowed to work after 10 o'clock at night does not necessarily mean that all workers work on a long night shift. She referred again to the shift in restaurants from eight to twelve at night, when men can make as much in four hours, because of the larger tips, than women can make in eight hours of day work. "Some women prefer day work and will not work at night," she said, "but the women who can adjust their living conditions better to working on a night shift should not be prevented by law from so doing."

The meeting adjourned with a feeling on the part of those present that there was no doubt of the increasing recognition by wage-earning women of the menace inherent in special labor laws for women.

Press Comment

Is This Protection?

Time and Tide, March 9, 1928.

AN incident has recently occurred in Devonshire, which, better than any argument, demonstrates the futility of the so-called "protection" of women in industry. A firm of women engineers—M.. Partridge & Company of Exeter — has been engaged for some years upon a scheme of rural electrification in Devonshire. Their employes are mostly women, and they are training a number of young women as electrical engineers, with a view to their ultimately taking charge, or part charge, of small power-stations serving rural districts. These young women get their training in the various power-stations run by the company in certain towns in Devonshire, and elsewhere. Since these stations have to be maintained continuously, night work is a necessity; and both the women engineers and the women apprentices had been engaged on night-work for some time, in ignorance of the fact that they were breaking the law. And then one night an inspector of factories arrived and warned them that the law forbade the employment of women after eight P. M., or at all on Sundays. The firm reported the matter to the Women's Engineering Society, which has taken it up with the Home Office. In a letter to the Home Secretary requesting him to receive a deputation, the society calls attention to the valuable national work which the firm in question is doing for rural electrification, and remarks that the present-day position could not possibly have been anticipated when the existing disabling legislation was enacted.

There the matter rests for the moment. The law is quite clear; the firm must either dismiss its women employes, or defy a ridiculous law. The work is proceeding as usual, and it will be interesting to see what will happen if a prosecution is instituted. The action of Messrs. Partridge & Company is dictated by practical considerations, rather than by Feminist theory, but so clear-cut a case drives home with remarkable force the justice of the Feminist demand for the open door in industry. The effect of the enforcement of the law in this instance would be that the trained women engineers would lose their skilled employment, that a number of women apprentices would find a lucrative, interesting and particularly suitable career closed to them, and that the already overstocked "women's occupations" would consequently become just a little more overstocked than they were before. Who can claim that all this would be to the advantage of the women workers? Who is it that this law against night-work protects? Certainly not the women!

When at the next election women and men go to the polls on terms of political equality the first important barrier on the path to equality will have been swept away. But there remains the formidable barrier of industrial equality, since without economic independence there cannot be real equality. In spite of the experience of the war years the conception of women as interlopers in the labor market lives on. We still hear the phrases, "a man's job" (meaning a job wanted by a man) and "a woman's job" (meaning a job *not* wanted by a man); although the only prescriptive right to a job is the right of the most efficient worker. Women suffer in the labor market, not from their natural disabilities — these are not yet known — but from artificial disabilities imposed on them by other people, disabilities whose origin is for the most part to be found in the desire of their men competitors to keep the best for themselves—a desire understandable, and in a sense, to be respected (even though it must be fought) when stated frankly, and not disguised as it nearly always is—in the garb of benevolence.

The consequences of the law prohibiting, for *women* painters and decorators only, the use of lead-paint, are as disastrous to their interests as the consequences of the law prohibiting, for women only, night work and Sunday work. It has been widely admitted since its enactment that the Lead Paint Act of 1926 was passed on insufficient evidence as to the special susceptibility of women to lead-poisoning. There is no reason for supposing that poisonous processes, danger, overwork, overstrain, inadequate meal-times, or bad air, are any better for men than they are for women. Protection, if it is to serve its purpose, and not make difficulties in new directions, must be applied to all adult workers, and not arbitrarily to one section alone.

The Government has not time this session to proceed with its Factories bill, which perpetuates the classification of women with young persons for the purposes of protection. There is, therefore—and fortunately—still time for second thoughts on this aspect of the bill, and we hope that the circumstances which have arisen in connection with the women engineers will stimulate the Government to think again before introducing the bill. It is on this object that Feminists must concentrate after the passage of the Franchise bill into law.

Doris Stevens' Appointment

From The Nation, New York, April 25, 1928.

NOTES ON WOMEN: In San Juan Province, Argentina, women voted for the first time on April 8. The statisticians report that whereas only 74 per cent. of the men went to the polls, 84 per cent. of the women voted. (In the advanced United States about 50 per cent. of the eligible voters vote in a Presidential year.) On the other hand, in Rosario, a city of 400,000 inhabitants, also in Argentina, some months ago, 28 women took the trouble to register; and in the senatorial election in the province of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, on April 8, precisely 11 women voted in the capital city of Natal. From which mixed reports the philosophers of Feminism and anti-Feminism may derive equal comfort. Meanwhile we hail the appointment of Doris Stevens as chairman of the Pan-American Woman's Commission. Where the women, as in San Juan, are awake, Doris Stevens will help organize them for other triumphs; where, as in Rosario and Natal, they are asleep, she will rouse them; and where, as in Havana, men are calmly assuming government and politics to be the exclusive prerogative of the male, Doris Stevens will lead a parade of women into their somber sessions and inform them that this is the twentieth century.

No Quarrel

Editorial by Nancy Barr Mavity in Oakland (Cal.) Tribune, April 11, 1928.

A 100 per cent. masculine organization called the "Fifty-Fifty League" has declared "sex war" in England because women hereafter in that country will vote on the same terms and within the same age limits as men. The "manifesto" which is designed to show how fearsome such a program is, and to put women back in their places with a thump, includes four items: Women shall be liable to conscription for military service; all sex privileges, concessions and immunities now enjoyed by women shall be withdrawn; all laws and practices which relieve women of the economic consequences of their acts shall be annulled; the marriage laws shall be rectified.

The really disconcerting phase of this declaration of "sex war" by the masculinists is that their enemy, the Feminists, have already accepted these same aims with loud cheers. The National Woman's Party reaches hands across the seas to these belligerent brethren with a cheerful: "Fine! That's what we've been fighting for all along. So glad you've joined us."

Only in an Alice in Wonderland country—or in one where a "sex war" could be declared and taken seriously—would the warring contestants find that there wasn't any enemy to shoot at, because they were both on the same side. At the revelation that their blasting satire has long been a program adopted by the more radical Feminists, the "antis" of the "Fifty-Fifty League" may be expected to turn up their toes and die of a deep disgust.

News from the Field

Porto Rican Women Before Committees

DR. MARTA ROBERT, president of the Liga Social Sufragista of Porto Rico, and Rosa Emanuelli, also of Porto Rico, appeared before the Senate and House of Representatives committees dealing with the territories and insular affairs of the United States last week to urge the adoption of the amendment to the Organic Act of Porto Rico providing for the enfranchisement of its women.

Senator Hiram Bingham of Connecticut, chairman of the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs, and Representative Edgar R. Kiess of Pennsylvania, chairman of the House Committee on Insular Affairs, introduced the proposed suffrage amendment to the Organic Act of Porto Rico.

Dr. Robert and Miss Emanuelli also conferred with members of these two committees urging immediate favorable action on the part of the committees on the measure.

A tea in their honor was given at National Headquarters of the Woman's Party on Sunday afternoon, April 22.

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Two Million Dollar Fund

Treasurer's Report

EMMA WOLD, *Treasurer*
NETTIE TRAIL, C. P. A., *Auditor*

RECEIPTS collected by National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to April 1, 1928, $1,445,165.90.

Contributions, membership and other receipts, April 1 to 16, 1928:

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, N. Y.		$120.00
Mrs. William Kent, Cal.		100.00
Mrs. Stephen Pell, N. Y.		50.00
Per Kansas City, Mo., Branch: (Kansas City Branch retaining dues in excess of 25 cents)		
Mrs. George Sabol	.25	
Mrs. H. D. Miner	.25	
Mrs. I. Cheney	.25	
Mrs. W. C. Hock	.25	
Mrs. E. Thomas	.25	
Mrs. Lyde Hertz	.25	
Mrs. A. E. Baehler	.25	
Mrs. Morgan Armstrong	.25	
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Mary Elizabeth Rutland	.25	
Mrs. Lillian Slusher	.25	
Mrs. M. L. Schaden	.25	
Miss Bertha Evans	.25	
Estelle Balfour Bennett	.25	
Mrs. Dean Smith	.25	
Mrs. E. D. Baldwin	.25	
Genevieve T. Wheeler	.25	
Mrs. Franklin Perrine	.25	
Mrs. George D. Marshall	.25	
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Mrs. Avery Coonley, D. C.		100.00
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Mrs. Samuel Hopkins Adams	.25	
Mrs. Florence M. Andrews	.25	
Miss Christine Birrell	.25	
Mrs. W. H. Bullis	.25	
Anna Birrell Clark	.25	
Miss Emma Elliott	.25	
Mrs. J. T. A. Doolittle	.25	
Miss A. P. Granger	.25	
Miss Georgia Hare	.25	
Mrs. Grace Kay Long	.25	
Miss Eleanor Mulholland	.25	
Mrs. Fred G. Paddock	.25	
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Miss Madelia H. Tuttle	.25	
Mrs. Effie Whitelaw	.25	
Mrs. William Wyness	.25	
Mrs. Dwight Clark, D. C.		25.00
Miss Caroline Harrison, D. C., in behalf of Miss Emma Louise Harrison, Iowa		10.00
Miss Lavinia Dock, Pa.		5.00
Miss Esther McLaughlin, N. Y.		1.00
Mrs. Katherine E. Smith, Ohio		10.00
Per Santa Barbara, Cal., Branch		25.00
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Per Santa Barbara, Cal., Branch: (Santa Barbara Branch retaining dues in excess of 25 cents)		
Miss Sophie Baylor	.25	
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Mrs. Scott L. Boyd	.25	
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Miss Katherine Wheeler	.25	
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Miss Anna Darby, D. C.		4.00
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Rent of rooms at Headquarters		599.25
		$1,085.51
Per Equal Rights Committee:		
Dr. D. R. Hooker, Md.	$700.00	
Maryland Branch of National Woman's Party	62.84	
		762.84
Total receipts, April 1 to 16, 1928		$1,848.35
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to April 16, 1928		$1,447,014.25

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